Seismic Survey

827. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into an agreement with PGS Ocean Bottom Seismic, a Norweagian Company for a dimensional Ocean bottom cable technique seismic survey over Mumbai High;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) ONGC has awarded a contract to M/s. PGS OBS, Norway on 20.6.1997 for 3D acquisition, processing and interpretation work in the Mumbai High at a value of US$ 49.73 million.

(c) The project is to be completed by 31.10.98.

Conditions of National Highways in Punjab

828. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor condition of the National Highways passing through Faridkot district of Punjab particularly Dabwali-Malout section due to the water logging and lack of repair; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to retrieve the situation by providing immediate assistance for the repair, expansion and maintenance of these roads?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware of settlement of certain stretches of National Highways between Dabwali to Malout & Bhatinda to Malout. The causes of settlement are being investigated for taking suitable permanent remedial measures. Regular maintenance is being done and the NHs are being kept in traffic worthy conditions within available resources.

[Translation]

Policy on Gas Utility

829. DR. ARVIND SHARMA :
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a policy on gas utility; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Govt. already has a policy on gas utilisation.

(b) The present policy provides for allocation of gas according to imputed economic value of natural gas use subject to preference for the power and fertiliser sectors. It also provides for the extraction of higher value components like C2/C3 and LPG from natural gas wherever possible.

[English]

Problems faced by Sportsmen

830. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether sportsmen faced severe problems during the entire period of the National Games, held in Bangalore in the first week of June;

(b) if so, the details of their problems and the persons responsible for it;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the responsible persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Foreign Assistance for Tourist Spots

831. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourist spots in Andhra Pradesh which avail of foreign assistance in development of these spots;

(b) the criteria in providing foreign assistance to these tourist spots; and